

BOTH SAD AND STRANGE

The Disappearance of W. S. Gardner Remains a Mystery.

HIS WIFE IS HEART BROKEN

There is Absolutely No Clue to His Whereabouts—The Story of His Sudden Departure From His Work.

LIVINGSTON, May 4.—The friends of W. S. Gardner, Northern Pacific lineman, with headquarters in this city, are greatly puzzled over his strange and mysterious disappearance. Some think he has met with foul play, while others reason that his actions of late have been so peculiar as to give birth to the terrible suspicion that his unaccountable absence may be the result of mental aberration. But whatever the cause, it is certain that Gardner has disappeared as completely and effectually as though the earth had yawned and swallowed him up.

About four months ago Mr. and Mrs. Gardner, and their little son of 8 years, arrived in the city from Edison, a suburb of Tacoma, Wash., the Northern Pacific company having transferred Mr. Gardner to Livingston and assigned him to the work of keeping in repair the telegraph lines between Bozeman and Billings. The lineman rented a house on the north side in this city, where his family is now domiciled.

About two months ago Gardner was held up one night in the Billings yards by three footpads, who threw a gunny sack over his head and relieved him of what money he had. When he returned to this city he informed his wife of the holdup. A week or so later he received two anonymous letters from Billings warning him to leave the country, but giving no reasons why his presence was not desired. These letters he showed to his brother-in-law and then destroyed them, without letting his wife know he had been threatened. He seemed to be greatly worried over the affair, and confided to Baggage-master Savage the fear that his life might be in danger. From this time on his wife noticed that he appeared somewhat changed and frequently talked and acted in a rather peculiar manner, but she paid no particular attention to this at the time. Four weeks ago Mrs. Gardner and little son went to Tacoma on a short visit. Ten days later she received a letter from her husband in which Gardner stated that while in Billings a gentleman whom he had never seen before got off the train and calling him by name said: "You are just the man I want to see. I am superintendent of the Butte Electric Light company and the lineman now in our employ is in the habit of getting drunk. Now, if you will come over to Butte on Monday, April 23, I will give you the situation at a salary of \$100 per month."

The proposition was accepted, Gardner informing his wife to this effect. Mrs. Gardner, having completed her visit, wrote to her husband that she would return to Livingston on Friday, April 27, and asked him to meet her here. She arrived on the date mentioned, but her husband was not there. He must have received her letter, however, for she found it in the house on the table. It had not been opened.

The following day Mrs. Gardner received a telegram from Helena from the gentleman under whom her husband had been working, asking where Gardner was and stating that he had asked for a two days' lay-off for April 23 and 24, but that he had not yet returned to work. Mrs. Gardner immediately telegraphed to Butte, but received no reply. Her suspicions were then aroused, and, after ascertaining that her husband had taken nothing with him from the house, not even a change of clothing, she began to make diligent inquiry for him. Ascertaining that he had attended quarterly meeting services at the Methodist church in this city the Sunday preceding her arrival and had been seen in company with Presiding Elder Riggins of Helena, who conducted the services here, she wired Rev. Mr. Riggins and received a reply to the effect that Gardner left for Butte Monday morning, April 23, in company with the presiding elder, the former stating that he was going to Butte, where he had secured a more lucrative position. Mr. Riggins further stated in the telegram that he had left the train at Whitehall, on the branch, and that Gardner had continued on. After having sent telegrams to various parts of the state without receiving any information as to the whereabouts of her husband, Mrs. Gardner wired her brother at Hope, Idaho, and also her husband's brother at St. Paul concerning the mysterious disappearance. Her brother arrived in the city yesterday and Gardner's brother passed through Livingston this morning, en-route to Butte to enlist the help of the officers in the search for the missing man.

This evening a new discovery was made which only serves to deepen the mystery surrounding Gardner's disappearance. From Roadmaster P. W. Cummings it was learned that a week ago Thursday morning, the morning Station Agent Ogle was murdered at Belgrade, Gardner boarded the train at Livingston and was breathing hard as though he had had to run to catch the train. Where he came from nobody appears to know. This was the first and only time that he was seen and recognized since he arrived in Butte four days previous. None of the trainmen remember his having returned.

After he boarded the train here on Thursday, Mr. Cummings asked him where he was going, to which Gardner replied, "Bozeman." After the train had passed Logan, however, on the Butte-Bozeman branch, Cummings again saw Gardner and said, "I thought you were going to get off at Bozeman?" Gardner said that he had changed his mind and had concluded to go on to Butte.

From that time up to the present writing, nearly 10 days, Gardner has neither been seen nor heard of, at least so far as can be ascertained.

Mrs. Gardner was seen here to-night by a STANDARD reporter and that lady, who is a woman of more than ordinary intelligence and very prepossessing in appearance, stated that her husband and herself had always lived happily together during their 11 years of wedded life; that he was a kind husband and an indulgent father, and that she was absolutely convinced that nothing could induce him to voluntarily desert his family.

If you with a fine head of hair of a natural hue, use Hall's Hair Renewer.

ON AND OFF THE STAGE.

BUTTE, May 5.—The people of Butte will soon have an opportunity to draw comparisons between the *Virginius* of James O'Neill and that of Frederick Ward, as the latter and Louis James will play their annual engagement here during the week of May 21. These great actors are generally acknowledged to be leaders in the classical drama. Their repertoire includes "Virginius," "Damon and Pythias," "Francesca da Rimini," "The Lion's Mouth," "Julius Caesar" and "Othello."

"The Black Crook" was originally produced in New York city, at Niblo's Garden, Wednesday night, September 12, 1866, by William Wheatley. It was intended as a romantic play, but owing to the destruction of the Academy of Music, Messrs. Jarrett & Palmer had on their hands a number of artists brought from Europe and they made arrangements with Mr. Wheatley to utilize the ballet troupe and the chief scenic effects of the spectacle, "La Biche au Bois," of which they had the models and the transformation scene. Mr. Wheatley arranged with the author of "The Black Crook" (Charles M. Barras), agreeing to assume all risks and financial responsibility in the production of the spectacle, and to pay Mr. Barras the sum of \$1,500 for one consecutive run of the piece, no matter what the duration might be. If he failed to have it acted one single night (Sunday excepted), the contract ended and fresh terms would have to be made. The dialogue of the piece was mercilessly cut, as one important scene, which Mr. Barras claimed would have been the most effective of all, was omitted to make room for the ballet. The gorgeous transformation was substituted for the original last scene, which simply represented the stage covered with clouds, while in the spaces between the wings and down the center of the stage from the back, large globes with fairies therein, were to move slowly down the slots under the glare of colored fire, and thus it was that this grand spectacle was an accident, and like many things created by a mishap, it has lived to be the foremost production of its kind ever presented in this or any other country. Up to the time of the production of "The Black Crook" New York had never seen a ballet of any size. Lola Montez had flitted across the stage, and Fanny Elssler, whom men raved over, had danced a few characteristic steps, but a complete ballet was unknown.

One of the most artistic publications concerning the dramatic profession is the Marie Burroughs Art Portfolios of Stage Celebrities, which has just been issued. It presents in one artistic and comprehensive collection the portraits of the most noted dramatic, operatic and musical artists of the world who have, within recent years found favor with the American public. With the portrait of each is presented a brief sketch of the artist's professional career, making the work as valuable for the information it conveys as it is interesting from an artistic standpoint. However diversified may be the views of different people as to the proper mission of the stage, there can be no question in regard to the theater as an institution. Discussion of plays and players occupies a large share of space in the public prints. Not only is the public interested in the stage as an institution, but also in the personality of those who exhibit genius or ability in the dramatic and operatic professions. Among photographs publicly sold none find a readier market than those of favorite actors and actresses, but the great outlay involved necessarily limited the number of large collections. With the improvements in photographic and engraving processes it has been made possible, however, to meet the demand for such portraits at a reasonable price, and the STANDARD will begin on Monday to give the Burroughs portfolios to its readers under the coupon system at an almost ridiculously low price. Each number contains 20 portraits, the first portfolio containing those of Marie Burroughs, Edward S. Willard, Marie Tempest, Jessie Bartlett Davis, Maurice Barrymore, Mrs. George Drew Barrymore, Charles F. Coghlan, Rose Coghlan, William Hunter Kendall, Mrs. Kendall, Denman Thompson, Maggie Mitchell, Richard Mansfield, Beatrice Cameron, Harry Lacey, Verona Jarbeau, Felix Morris, George Cayvan, Kylie Bellew, Mrs. James Brown Potter and James O'Neill.

Talk about cruelty to animals, but it is not a circumstance to the agonizing conditions related by Sam M. Dawson, agent of the "Black Crook." "If you knew what agony ballet girls suffer on account of their feet you would wonder how they are ever able to smile at an audience in the way they do," said Sam. "The premiers, if they appear twice the same evening, invariably have a chiropodist back of the scenes to attend to them between acts. It is peculiar, but ballet girls get corns under their great toe nails. This, of course, would prevent them from dancing, but the doctors have a way of treating such things. They split the toe nail down the center and place cotton between this and the corn. This has to be dressed after each dance. I have seen a premier dance some off the stage smiling and fall down in a faint as soon as she was out of sight of the audience, all caused by the pain in her feet."

In speaking about "dead heads," a New York manager was reminded of an incident that occurred at one of the combination theaters. A number of men would approach the manager, and inquire, "Do you admit the profession?" The manager would then ask the applicant's name and where he was working. Upon receiving a satisfactory reply the professional would be passed in.

A rough-looking Irishman who intended to buy a gallery ticket overheard several of these conversations. He thought it was a needless waste to spend a quarter when free admission was obtained so readily. He approached the manager.

"Do yez admit the perfeshun?" he asked gruffly.

"Yes. What's your name?"

"McCarthy."

"Where are you working?"

"Pier 6, North river."

Connell Co. sell on Monday and Tuesday only, excellent calico wrappers, wau-teau back, full sleeves, ruffled necks, at 65c each, all sizes. First-rate indigo blue wrappers, also in silver gray and fancies, with full skirt and lined to the waist at 85c each. Similar reductions in better qualities up to \$3.50 and in China silk tea gowns up to \$8.50. Be sure you see those 95c kid gloves when in the store.

Should you visit Basin don't overlook the Miners' cafe. Meals at all hours. Mike McCormick, proprietor.

MISSOULA...

The Missoula Office of THE STANDARD is at 220 Higgins Avenue. Telephone No. 33.

GETTING IT IN SHAPE.

Missoula's Public Library Promises to Be Popular.

MISSOULA, May 5.—The various committees of the public library directors are busily engaged in getting the affairs of the library in such shape as to place it at the disposal of the public at the earliest possible date. The committee on rules and regulations has adopted by-laws to regulate the use of the library and the books of the old circulating library are being collected and arranged. There are between 600 and 500 of these books that are serviceable, and this, with the first purchase of the directors, will make a good start for the new public library. The committee on books is preparing a list of magazines and books for presentation at the next meeting of the directors, and as soon as this is acted upon, the first consignment of books will probably be ordered. This will, it is expected, amount to about \$750.

Charles Kusley, the taxidermist, has donated to the library, as a suitable emblem, a finely mounted owl that will preside over the establishment and pose as a model of learning and wisdom. Mr. Kusley has also allowed the directors the use of a number of deer heads, birds and other specimens of natural history, which will be hung in the library rooms.

It has also been suggested that the book-case of the old library, which is not suited to the needs of the present system, be utilized as a cabinet for a museum which would add materially to the attractiveness of the establishment. One gentleman has donated the use of a valuable collection of English coins and another collector will place at the disposal of the directors a complete display of American coins. Other private collections of ore and natural history specimens are obtainable, and this department of the library would unquestionably be a popular addition to the rooms.

There are still a number of books belonging to the circulating library that have not yet been returned, among them the following:

- Hosier Schoolmaster.
- Nicholas Nickleby.
- Tale of Two Cities.
- Marble Faun.
- Original Belle.
- Daisy Thornton.
- John Halifax.
- Colonel's Daughter.
- Aunt Joe's Scrap Book.
- Dream Life.
- Reveries of a Bachelor.
- My Australia.
- Man Without a Country.
- The Gold Bug.
- John Bull.
- Scottish Chiefs.
- That Lass o' Lawrie.

In addition to the above it is known that there are still some 40 or 50 volumes missing, but owing to the absence of a catalogue, it is impossible to give the list. Another request is made to those who made use of the old library to look over their lists of books, and if any are found belonging to the library to kindly return them at once.

GARDEN CITY GOSSIP.

MISSOULA, May 5.—The arrival of Company B, Twenty-fifth Infantry, U. S. A., which is to be quartered at Fort Missoula, has been delayed by the tie-up of the Great Northern. But now that the operation of that road has been resumed, the company is expected in a few days, probably not later than Tuesday. This company is commanded by Capt. R. H. Loughborough, and will occupy the recently constructed quarters at the post.

Colonel Woodward of the *Western News* has been kept busy for the past two days, explaining to his acquaintances the cause of a well developed black and blue spot which covers the northeast quarter of his face. Erroneous conclusions have been drawn, chiefly on account of the colonel's well known aggressiveness. The real cause of the irregularity was the combined effect of a suddenly developed streak of industry on the gentleman's part and his inexperience with the axe.

Street Repairer Fox and his crew have been making a decided improvement in the thoroughfares across the track. Their operations are heartily appreciated by those who have occasion to drive in that vicinity.

Train No. 2 this morning brought news of a serious fire at Horse Plains, which destroyed Noy Lynch, Jr.'s store, together with the Boyer hotel and Blake's saloon. Colonel McGowan's building was saved with the assistance of the railroad men. The total loss is \$5,750, partially insured in Missoula agencies.

A fair audience assembled this evening to hear Henry Watterston's lecture on "Money and Morals." It was one of the best lectures ever given in Missoula and worthy of the reputation of the eminent Kentuckian.

Harry Sommers has gone up the Bitter Root to prospect that country for a route for a new telephone line.

Chief Mentrum has called a special meeting of the State Firemen's association in this city May 16, for the purpose of deciding whether the association will hold a tournament or not this year.

Judge Evans this afternoon imposed a 10-days' sentence upon a wandering stranger who worked the Rankin restaurant for a meal.

Dr. G. P. Mills has so far recovered from his recent illness as to be able to come down from the ranch.

Miss Coburn, who has been the guest of her sister, Mrs. Murray B. Miles, for some time, returned to Anaconda yesterday.

THE NEWS OF BOZEMAN.

Ponsford Resigns—Finn's Denial—Miller Identified—Cox Declared Insane.

BOZEMAN, May 4.—Sol Cox, the painter, was adjudged insane to-day. He will be taken to Warm Springs to-morrow.

Word was received direct from Division Superintendent Finn's office to-night emphatically denying the report to the effect that the Northern Pacific, through their superintendent of this division, had refused to transport the remains of Station Agent Ogle from Belgrade to Bozeman unless fare was paid in advance. It seems that there was no foundation for this report whatever, and that the whole matter was a canard, as was intimated in yesterday's STANDARD.

The Agricultural college baseball team has been practicing as much as the bad weather would permit. The boys expected to meet the College of Montana on the diamond at Butte this month, but although challenged for a game by the Deer

Lodge boys, the latter have not announced the Bozeman nine's acceptance to the challenge. The Agricultural college nine needs a great deal of practice before it can expect to win many games. The boys, however, are very anxious to cross bats with the west side team. They cannot understand why the Deer Lodge nine does not answer the repeated acceptances of a challenge sent by them some time ago.

Mickey Slavin, a well-known sport with prize ring proclivities, was jailed to-night as a vag. Mickey came over from Livingston, from which town he was fired by the police, so it is said.

J. W. Ponsford has handed the mayor his resignation as chief of police. The resignation takes effect Monday. Mr. Ponsford has made an exceptionally good officer. He knows everybody, is a natural detective and possesses all the requirements that make up a successful chief of police. He has conducted his office without fear or favor, and even those who have been opposed to him must admit that the affairs of his office have been managed well during his term. Mr. Ponsford resigns that he may give his entire time to his personal business.

Jack Robertson will, no doubt, be appointed as Mr. Ponsford's successor. Mr. Robertson has been on the police force for years. He has served several terms satisfactorily as marshal and has the experience and qualifications of a successful officer.

Al Winters undertook to leave Bozeman Thursday for Texas, but had his plans somewhat disarranged by Under Sheriff Brooks. It seems that Winters and his first wife were divorced some time ago and each were given the custody of one child. By the decree of the court the divorced wife was permitted to visit the child in the husband's keeping at stated intervals. Winters expected to take this child to Texas, and if he did so of course the mother would not have the opportunity to see her child at all. To prevent Winters' going with the child Mrs. Winters No. 1 secured an order from Judge Henry of Park county, restraining Winters from removing the child. In executing this order Under Sheriff Brooks took the child in custody and now has the little one at his home. It is understood that the interested parties, or their attorneys, expect to leave to-morrow for Livingston, where they hope to straighten out the affair.

Policeman Scharenbroich came over from Helena yesterday to identify, if possible, Al Millen, who was arrested by Jailor Fred Brower in this city a few days ago. The officer recognized Millen as one of the gang who escaped from him two years ago, but he does not think that Millen is the man who shot him. J. A. Bailey, clerk of the district court in and for Park county, came over from Livingston yesterday.

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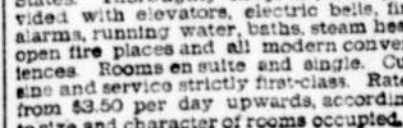
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